

SOME SARCASTIC SHOTS.

The Office of School Superintendent Discussed.

Better Elect a Man Who Will Pay More Attention to Schools and Less to Lawmaking.

As something more than an interested spectator among the voters of this county I desire to have a little to say about the office of school superintendent of this county. It seems to me that there is very little politics in this office and that the time of the school superintendent should be devoted to the interests of the schools of the county; that he should be concerned in improving the schools rather than in advancing the interests of individuals, political parties or certain districts to the detriment of others. It seems to me that the patrons of the schools would be better satisfied with a superintendent who would execute the school laws as he finds them without fear or favor than with a man whose exuberance of knowledge bursts from the narrow confines of the office of superintendent of schools and seeks employment in revising and extending the laws of the territory in reference to schools; supplementing the acts of the legislature from the profound depths of his extraordinary wisdom and all this without expense to the common herd.

The superintendent of schools is paid to perform the duties of his office as prescribed by law and the great majority of the common folks in the county would be well satisfied to have the superintendent do what is required of him. He is not paid to act as a legislative assembly and governor of the territory into the bargain to make laws and approve them and, as I understand it, most of the folks in this corner of New Mexico do not wish to impose upon any one and have him perform such a prodigious amount of work for nothing.

We pay the legislature for making our laws and the governor gets pay for examining the laws passed by the legislature and approving or disapproving them. As long as these fellows get paid for performing that work it wouldn't be fair to saddle it all upon a poor overworked school superintendent or to allow an over ambitious one whose immensity of understanding so completely overtops the plebeians of the community to do it without pay commensurate with the character of the work. Besides the poor deluded fellows in the legislature might not take it in a kindly spirit and the judges of the courts might not grasp the idea. The proper place for men with such a prodigious store of knowledge is not in the office of county superintendent of schools in New Mexico, but they

should immediately step to the top of the ladder of fame and burst forth in all their glory.

The powers of a superintendent of schools is rather limited. His acts are prescribed by law and I apprehend that the voters of Grant county would be well satisfied with a man who would perform his duty conscientiously and who would be governed by existing laws and not attempt to make new ones for every contingency.

The brain fag attendant upon the discharge of the duties of the office of school superintendent and the additional arduous labor of lawmaking for the people must be something immense and after a couple of years of such severe strain upon the mental faculties there ought to be a little rest. A year's vacation snipe shooting might restore the normal condition. Now in all seriousness I think it is time for the voters of the county to study this question a little. There is no office in the county which is closer to the people than the office of superintendent of schools. Most of the voters of the county have children to send to school and they are deeply interested in the matter. Taxes for school purposes are high, but no one is complaining on that account. We want good schools and I know that the taxpayers of Grant county are willing to pay taxes to support them. In order to have good schools it is necessary to have money enough to hire good teachers and to have good teachers employed. It is also necessary to have a superintendent whose ambition it is to have the schools attain the highest standard of excellence and who will not allow his personal prejudices to stand in the way of the onward progress of education.

I can not believe that a man who sets himself up to be wiser and better than the lawmakers of the territory and the judges who administer the laws is a proper man for the office of superintendent of schools and I believe that fully three-fifths of the voters of the county agree with me. Let us have good schools and a school superintendent who is worthy of the name.

LAFAYETTE.

At point Lookout the men started to build a platform out into the bay which was not completed. Connecting boards along the spiles furnished an excellent opportunity for fishing. On one of these I sat trolling for spotted-tail bass—a fish there found—and O'Donnell was "still" fishing from another two or three rods distant. He caught a flounder, evidently the first he ever saw. Holding it aloft as it twirled around, alternately showing the dark and flat white sides, he summed up his ichthyological astonishment in the following soliloquy: "Be jabbers! Oi'll fish a long spell before I get the other half of yez."—Boston Journal.

GEO. W. MILES.

Candidate for the Council from the Eighth Legislative District—Grant and Dona Ana Counties.

Prof. George W. Miles has been a resident of Grant county since June 3rd, 1885, having graduated with honors a



Prof. Geo. W. Miles.

short time before from the state university of Missouri, from which institution he holds the master's degree. He graduated at the head of the scientific department and won a \$50 gold medal

for the best standing in theoretical and practical astronomy.

Since he became a resident of Grant county, he has spent several years respectively as teacher and superintendent of schools, and has been very successful in his interpretations of New Mexico school law. Two years ago he was elected assessor of this county by a large majority and at the close of his term as superintendent of schools he entered upon the duties of assessor. In addition to this work he has spent several years in ranching and raising cattle, and has devoted a portion of his hard earned means to opening and developing Grant county mines.

He was respectively superintendent of the Fleming cattle company and Oak Grove and Sierra Verde cattle company and organized the NAN ranch company, which is one of the largest tax payers in the county.

His time and means have been successfully spent in building up the business and educational interests of Grant county and of southwestern New Mexico. He is now one of the board of regents of the normal school of New Mexico and has taken a great deal of interest in getting the institution successfully started.

Should he be elected, and there is hardly a doubt but that he will be, he would take renewed interest in educational matters and would doubtless be able to secure legislation of great benefit to the educational interests of the territory. Having been a teacher in the public schools and a superintendent of schools, he is thoroughly acquainted with the needs of the schools of the territory and knows just what legislation is needed for their benefit.

Politically he is a sound democrat and has always been ready to work for the interests of the party. His character is above reproach and his popularity can be attested in no more convincing way than to refer to the large majorities which he has always received in this county when he has been a candidate for office.